(b) the purpose of their visit to the Capital;

(c) the names of the other leaders and diplomats they met in the Capital and gist of their activities and the statements they made during then stay;

(d) whether the same was done with the prior approval of the Central Governmeut and if not, the reasons thereor;

(e) whether their activities and the statements are detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH„ PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRl BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) According to available informatxn the following leaders from lammu and Kashmir visited the Capital druing March, 1995:—

(i) Syed Ali Shah Gillani, Jamat e-Islami.

(ii) Maulvi Umar Farooq, Awami Action Committee.

(iii) Abdul Gani Lone, Feoples Conference.

(iv) Shabir Ahmed Shah, Peoples League.

(v) Ghulam Nabi Sumbji, Muslim Conference.

(vi) Fazal-ul-Haq Qureshi, People's Ptlitical Front.

(b) and (c) It is learnt that they had primarily come to Delhi to attend the "Pakistan Day Celebrations" on 23 March 1995 on the invitation of the Pakisian High Commissioner in India. Some of these leaders also met various foreign diplomats, political leaders and other intellectuals during their stay. However, it is not possible to give the details of all" the persons whom they have met. ,

(d) No such permission is required.

(e) and (f) The Govemment is keeping a watch over the activites of such persons and action as may be considered necessary and appropriate will be taken as required.

Comments of Hurriyat leaden on the situation around Dargah Charar-e-Sharief

3942. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that JKLF militants on being prevented by the security forces from entering the snrine of Chrar-e Sharief near Srinagar in J&K have occupied the areas around the shrine there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since then there have been fierce and intermittent firing between the two;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the residents of Gharar-e-Sharief are fleeing because of harassment to them by the mili tants;

(e) if so, how many persons have fled of their houses so far;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Hurriyat leaders, while addressing a meeting at Press Club of India in the Capital, warned the Central Government to lift the siege of the said shrine or face mass agitation and appealed to Muslim countries and OIC countries to impress upon Government to do the same and also denied that Pakistan was supplying arms and ammunition to Kashmiri militants; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (e) According to available information, militants belonging to the terrorist outfits Harkat ul-Ansar and Hizo-ui-Mujahideen have holed themselves up in the township of Charar-e-Sharief where the shrine ot the Sufi Saint Hazrat Noor-ud Din-Noorani is situated. The State Government has strengthened the Security arrangements in the vicinity of the township to check any further infiltration and escalation of the situation. There has been intermittent firing between the security forces and the militants. but despite provocation the security frces have maintained the utmost restraint to ensure against any harm to civilian life and property, including any damage *to* the shrine. A large number of people, including women and children, have left the town due to fear and apprehension caused by the presence of militants in the town-However, of late, some families have returned to their homes in the town.

(f) and (g) Government are aware of such reports and of the attempts of Pakistan and its protege groups in the State to use their own acts of violating the sanctity or religious places and trampelling upon the sentiments of the local people, or inability to prevent this, for spreading; dis-information and provoking the people.

There is no seige of the shrine and the residents of the town are able to move in and out without impediments. Government had also offered safe passage to the foreign nationals present in the town upto the LOC if they surrendered, which has not drawn any response. A close watch is being kept on the situation and such further action will be taken as may be required keeping in view the situation, the topography of the area and the sanctity of the shrine.

Damage caused to properties of Kasthimiri Panit migrants

3943. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses of Kashmiri Pandit-migrants in the Valley burnt, damaged or looted;

(b) the numbet of cases in which compensation has been paid or insurance claims settled; and

(c) the details of the amount so far ipaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI); (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Outcome of Jammu Republic Day Bomb-blast investigations

3944. SHRI JAGMOHAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the arrest of a Pakistani terrorist agent, the police authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have resolved the case relating ex plosions at the Republic Day function in the State in which a number of persons were killed and the State Governor amongst others were injur ed on January 26, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plot unearthed and the persons-Indians and foreigners app.ehended in connection therewith; and

(c) what follow-up steps have so far been taken in connection therew th'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TPE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.